

## SUGGESTED FORMS OF CHURCH COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS FOR MATTERS RELATING TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

When discussing whether or not to permit a Methodist church building to be used for same-sex marriages, Church Councils should consider three separate resolutions:

1. To register the church building for same-sex marriage ceremonies.
2. To consent to services of blessing for same-sex couples who are already married to take place in the church building, whether or not the Church Council also resolves to register the building for same-sex marriage ceremonies.
3. To nominate the Authorised Person to be appointed by the Registrar to be present at the solemnization of same-sex marriages conducted in the church building.

Suggested wording for each of these resolutions and the possible options associated with them are set out below.

### 1. Sample resolution to register a Methodist church building for same-sex marriages

#### NOTES:

*(i) In a situation where a Church Council may be the managing trustees of more than one local church, a **separate resolution is needed for each building for which registration is sought.***

*(ii) Suggested resolution (b) is **optional** if the Church Council wishes to enable the possibility for a special General Registrar's licence to be sought in a case where the marriage would have taken place in the church building but for 'in extremis' circumstances. If the Church Council, following discussion, does not wish to include this extended consent, the wording in (b) should be omitted from the final resolution, meaning suggested resolution (c) will then become resolution (b).*

**Resolution 1:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on [date],

- a) consents to the solemnization of marriages of same-sex couples and resolves to apply to register the building known as [XX] Methodist Church, situated at [insert address], for the solemnization of such marriages under section 43A of the Marriage Act 1949, and
- b) **OPTIONAL (SEE NOTE (ii) ABOVE)** [resolves that the consent in (a) above may be extended to cover situations where members of the congregation are unable to marry in the church building (for example due to being housebound, detained or seriously ill and therefore unable to be moved), and]
- c) authorises [named member of the Church Council], being a trustee, to sign and submit to the Superintendent Registrar of the [YY] Registration District the required application and certificate.

## **2. Sample resolution to consent to services of blessing for same-sex couples who are already married taking place in a Methodist church building**

*NOTE: This resolution is required if the Church Council is content for blessings of same-sex couples who are already married to take place in its building, whether or not it has adopted suggested Resolution 1 above.*

**Resolution 2:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on [date], consents to services of blessing of a marriage of a same-sex couple which has already been solemnized being conducted in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church, situated at [insert address].

## **3. Sample resolutions to certify the Authorised Person in respect of same-sex marriages**

*NOTE: The form of resolution will depend upon the various scenarios outlined in the guidance [here](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships/guidance-and-resources-for-same-sex-marriage/): <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/marriage-and-relationships/guidance-and-resources-for-same-sex-marriage/>*

### **a. If the existing Authorised Person ('AP') is to be certified also for same-sex marriages and no other person is to be added**

**Resolution 3:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on [date],

a) resolves that [full name of AP] be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as the Authorised Person to be present at the marriages of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church situated at [insert address], and

b) authorises [two named members of the Church Council], being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.

### **b. If the existing Authorised Person is to continue to be Authorised and to be the Responsible Authorised Person but another person is to be added as an additional Authorised Person ('AAP') for both types of marriage**

**Resolution 3:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on [date],

a) resolves that [full name of proposed AAP] be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as an additional Authorised Person to be present at the marriages between a man and a woman in accordance with Section 43 of the Marriage Act 1949 and of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church situated at [insert address], and

b) authorises [*two named members of the Church Council*], being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.

**c. If the existing Authorised Person is to continue to be Authorised and to be the Responsible Authorised Person but another person is to be added as an additional Authorised Person ('AAP') for same-sex marriages only**

**Resolution 3:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on [*date*],

a) resolves that [*full name of AAP*] be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as an Authorised Person to be present at the marriages of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church situated at [*insert address*], and

b) authorises [*two named members of the Church Council*], being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.

**d. If the existing Authorised Person ('EAP') is to continue to be Authorised, but another person is to be added for both types of marriage and to become the Responsible Authorised Person ('RAP')**

*NOTE: To ensure that the EAP continues to be authorised as an additional person, another form 78A must be completed for them (otherwise the General Register Office may take the new appointment to be a replacement and delete the existing name).*

**Resolution 3:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on [*date*],

a) resolves that [*full name of RAP*] be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as the Responsible Authorised Person to be present at the marriages between a man and a woman in accordance with Section 43 of the Marriage Act 1949 and of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church situated at [*insert address*], with [*full name of EAP*] continuing as an additional Authorised Person, and

b) authorises [*two named members of the Church Council*], being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.

**e. If the existing Authorised Person ('EAP') is to continue to be Authorised, but another person is to be added for same-sex marriages and to become the Responsible Authorised Person ('RAP')**

*NOTE: To ensure that the EAP continues to be authorised as an additional person, another form 78A must be completed for them (otherwise the General Register Office may take the new appointment to be a replacement and delete the existing name).*

**Resolution 3:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on *[date]*,

a) resolves that *[full name of RAP]* be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as the Responsible Authorised Person to be present at the marriages of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church situated at *[insert address]*, with *[full name of EAP]* continuing as an additional Authorised Person, and

b) authorises *[two named members of the Church Council]*, being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.

**f. If the existing Authorised Person ('EAP') no longer wishes to continue to be authorised, and appointment of a new Authorised Person ('AP') is being made for both types of marriage**

**Resolution 3:** The Church Council of [XX] Methodist Church, meeting on *[date]*,

a) resolves that *[full name of new AP]* be certified to the Registrar General and the Superintendent Registrar as the Responsible Authorised Person to be present at the marriages between a man and a woman in accordance with Section 43 of the Marriage Act 1949 and of same-sex couples in accordance with Section 43B of the Marriage Act 1949 solemnized in the building known as [XX] Methodist Church situated at *[insert address]*, in place of *[full name of EAP]*, and

b) authorises *[two named members of the Church Council]*, being trustees, to sign and submit this certification.